



U.S. Department of State

Documenting ISIL's Antiquities Trafficking



Andrew Keller
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Counter Threat Finance and Sanctions
Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs

September 29, 2015

ISIL's Finances

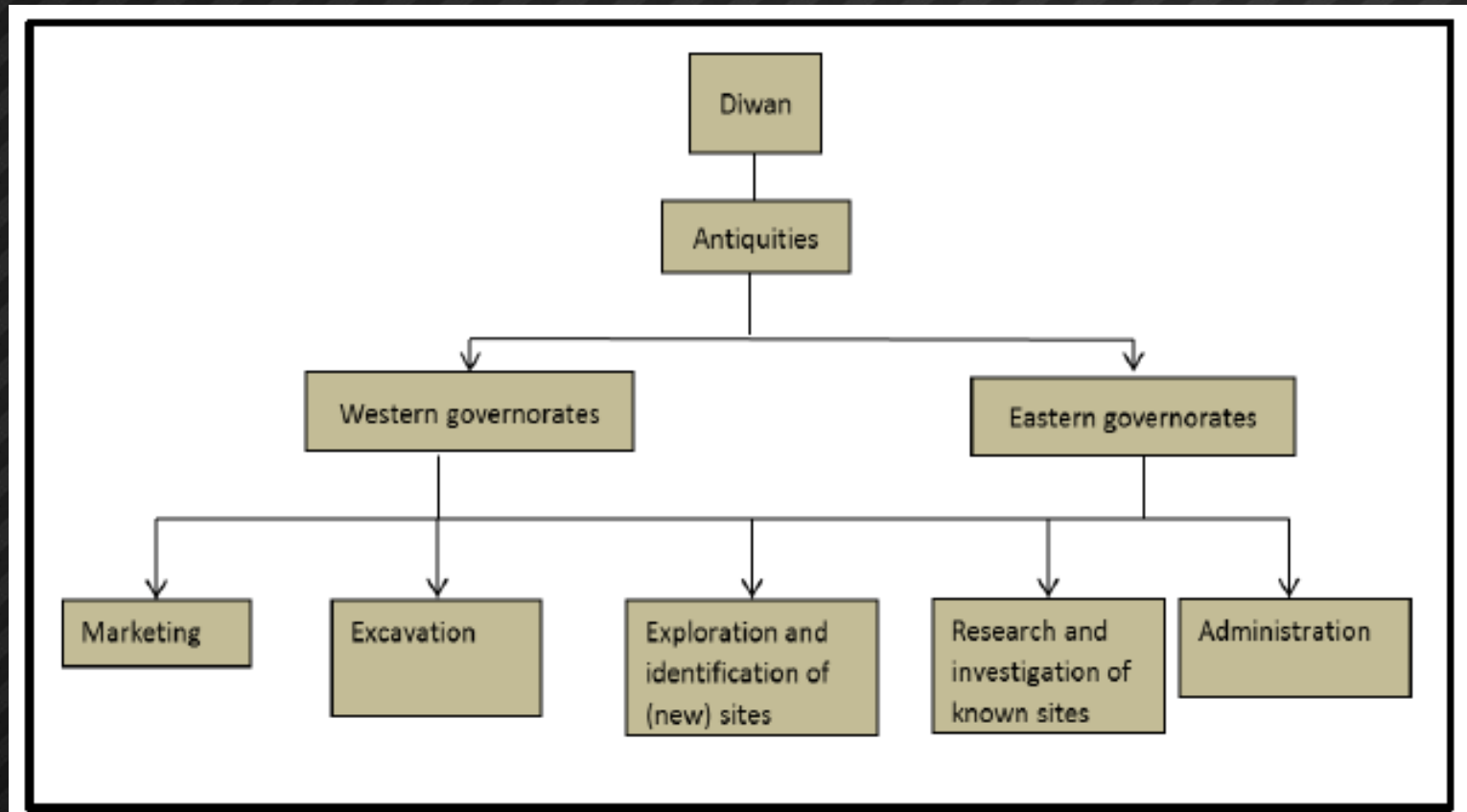
- ISIL has amassed wealth at an unprecedented pace
- ISIL derives most of its revenue from its control of territory
- Antiquities are just another resource for ISIL

ISIL's Trafficking in Antiquities

Documents captured during the Abu Sayyaf raid offer proof that ISIL:

- Systematically traffics in antiquities
- Is well organized to traffic in antiquities
- Licenses looting of archaeological sites
- Profits from trafficking in antiquities

Organizational Structure



Leadership in Al Sham “Governorates”

[Left side]

There is no God but Allah.

Date: 21 NOV 2014

[Right side]

The Islamic State

Diwan of Natural Resources

Antiquities Division

Number: 008

To Brother [REDACTED] keep him.

Greetings,

We would like to remind you that the person in charge of the Antiquities Division in the Al Sham Wilayahs [ISIL Governorates in the Levant] shall be Abu-Sayyaf al-'Iraqi. The reason being is that he is very knowledgeable in this field, and that [REDACTED] is a simpleton who can't manage the division. Moreover, people in the Levant who work in the field of antiquities are weak of faith and Abu-Sayyaf has experience in dealing with them.

God bless you.

21 NOV 2014

Your loving brother [a name is not discernible in the signature]

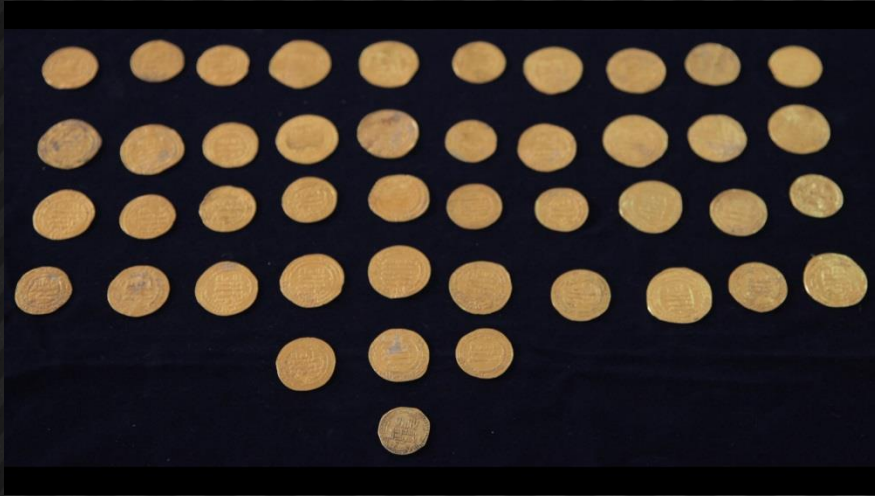
Stolen Antiquities



Stolen Antiquities



Artifacts in Abu Sayyaf's Possession



License to Loot



Islamic State
Diwan of Natural Resources
Antiquities Division
Number 001
Dated: 16 OCT 2014

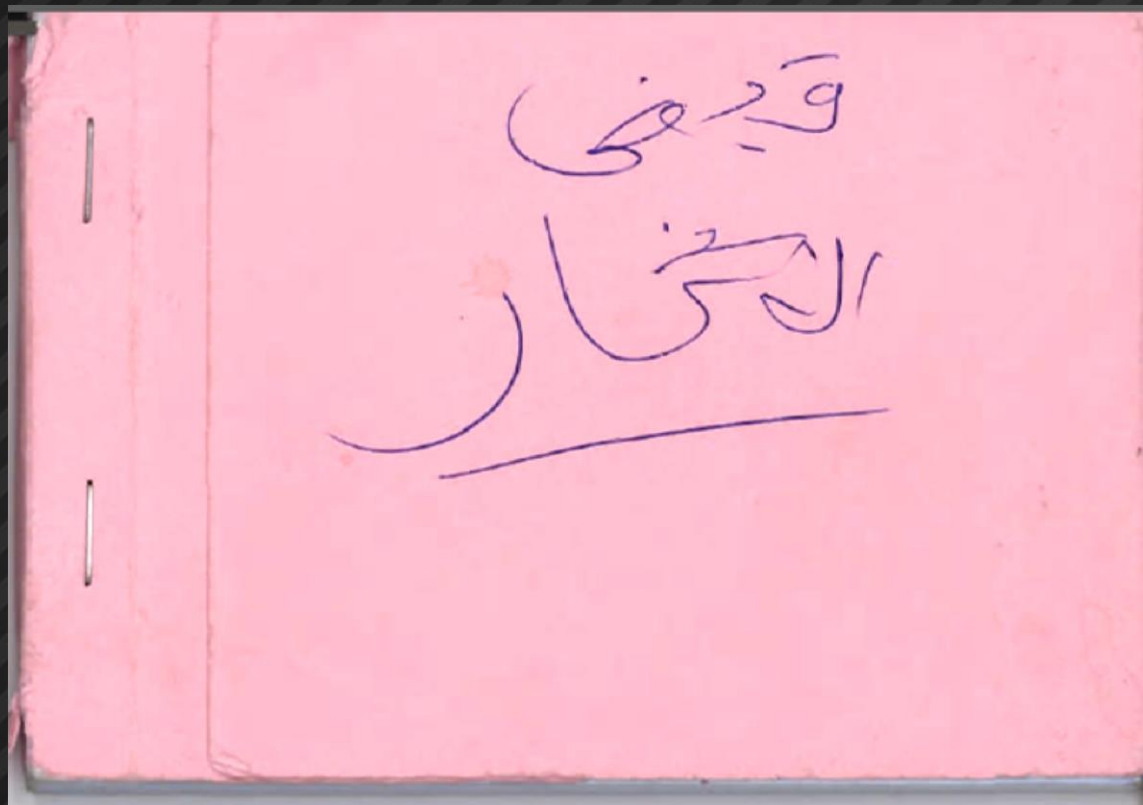
To the brothers in the Islamic State

Allow the brother [REDACTED] to excavate and supervise the Antiquities.



- 1- The individual in charge of 'Ayyash area is [REDACTED]
- 2- The two individuals in charge of the 'Ayyash area are [REDACTED]
- 3- The person in charge of Hamdan area is [REDACTED]



May God reward you
This letter is valid for 16 months from the issue date.
Your brother Abu-Sayyaf al-'Iraqi
[TC: stamp and signature]



Receipt Book



Receipts

The Islamic State Diwan of Natural Resources Antiquities Division		In the name of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate  Collection receipt		Date: 11 DEC 2014 Number 102	
I, the below signed:		Abu-Sayyafal-'Iraqi			
Received from the brother:					
The amount:		2,152,000 SYP		Written: Two million one hundred fifty-two thousand SYP exactly	
Notes:		1/5 th the value of the Antiquities Sold in Al Khayr governorate			
Recipient signature: [Signature]			Submitter signature: [Signature] [Seal of the Diwan of Natural Resources, head of Antiquities]		

The Islamic State Diwan of Natural Resources Antiquities Division		In the name of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate  Collection receipt		Date: 15 DEC 2014 Number 103	
I, the below signed:		Abu-Sayyafal-'Iraqi			
Received from the brother:					
The amount:		191,560 SYP		Written: One hundred ninety-one thousand five hundred sixty SYP exactly	
Notes:		1/5 th the value of the Antiquities Sold in Al Khayr governorate			
Recipient signature: [Signature] [Seal of the Diwan of Natural Resources, head of the workshop]			Submitter signature: [Signature] [Seal of the Diwan of Natural Resources, head of Antiquities]		

The Islamic State Diwan of Natural Resources Antiquities Division		In the name of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate  Collection receipt		Date: 06 DEC 2014 Number 101	
I, the below signed:		Abu-Sayyafal-'Iraqi			
Received from the brother:					
The amount:		2,960,000 SYP		Written: Two million nine hundred sixty thousand SYP exactly	
Notes:		1/5 th the value of the Antiquities Sold in Al Khayr governorate			
Recipient signature: [Signature]			Submitter signature: [Signature] [Seal of the Diwan of Natural Resources, head of Antiquities]		

Ban on Excavating Archaeological Sites

[Beginning of Translation]

The name of God the most compassionate and most merciful

The Islamic State
The General Committee

Date: 18/11/1435
13 SEP 2015

Thanks be to the Almighty Allah, prayer and peace upon the Messenger of Allah and upon his Household and Companions and those who followed him, afterwards:

Administrative Order Number / 5 /

It is prohibited for any brother from the Islamic State to excavate antiquities or give the permit to anyone from the public without receiving a stamped permit issued from the Diwan of Natural Resources and Minerals-Antiquities Division.

Any previous assignment or permit to any one is considered null whoever the issuing source might be, holder of such a permit must report to the Diwan of Natural Resources – Antiquities Division to obtain a substitute.

Anyone proven to be in violation of this order, since its issuing date, is considered disobedient to this order and is a subject to penalty in accordance to Sharia courts.

May Allah reward you,

Stamp of the Islamic State
The General Governing Committee

[End of Translation]

Conclusion

- Antiquities trafficking helps fuel ISIL's reign of terror
- Supply is difficult to control
- We must address demand

Demand drives trafficking